

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1, cancel claims 4-6 and 11-14, and add new claims 15-19 as follows. The remaining claims are reiterated below for the convenience of the Examiner.

1. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a.) a dispenser comprising of: i.) a housing having a chamber; ii.) a means for retaining a plurality of test strips in a substantially moisture-proof, and air-tight first position; and iii.) a means for opening the chamber and moving one of the plurality of test strips translationally from a first position inside of the chamber to a second position at least partially outside of the chamber, wherein the opening of the chamber and the moving of the one test strip is achieved by a single mechanical motion; and
b.) an electrochemical analyzing means for analyzing a biological fluid.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises:

a sealing member;
a circumferential collar;
a dispensing outlet; and
an urging means for urging the test strip retaining means.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the means for opening the chamber and moving one of the plurality of test strips further comprises:

a slide member;
a cam member integral with the slide member; and
a push member integral with the slide member.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

~~4~~ (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises a gear rack.

~~5~~ ~~8.~~ (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~7~~, wherein the means for opening the chamber and moving one of the plurality of test strips further comprises:

- a slide member;
- a gear wheel rotatably coupled to the slide member and engageable with the gear rack;
- a cam wheel rotatably coupled to the slide member; and
- a push member with a plurality of teeth suitable for meshing with the gear wheel.

~~6~~ ~~9.~~ (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~7~~, wherein the means for opening the chamber and moving one of the plurality of test strips further comprises:

- a slide member;
- a gear wheel rotatably coupled to the slide member and engageable with the gear rack;
- a push member;
- a link swivelably coupled to the push member; and
- a cam wheel mounted coaxially with the gear wheel and comprising an arm swivelably coupled to the link.

~~10.~~ (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~7~~, wherein the means for opening the chamber and moving one of the plurality of test strips further comprises:

- a slide member;
- a cam wheel rotatably coupled to the slide member;
- a gear wheel engageable with the gear rack; and
- a push member having an arm coupled thereto by a pin spaced a distance from the center of the cam wheel wherein the pin is moveable in a cycloidal manner when the cam wheel is rotatably moved.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

~~15.~~ (New) An apparatus comprising:

a dispenser comprising a housing having a chamber, a means for retaining a plurality of test strips in a substantially moisture-proof, air-tight first position, and a means for opening the chamber and moving the plurality of test strips one at a time from a first position inside of the chamber to a second position at least partially outside of the chamber; and

an electrochemical analyzing means for analyzing a biological fluid deposited on a test strip when in the second position.

~~16.~~ (New) The apparatus of claim ~~15~~ further comprising means for ejecting the plurality of test strips from the chamber one at a time.

~~17.~~ (New) A method of dispensing and using a plurality of test strips for analyzing biological fluid, the method comprising:

providing an apparatus comprising a housing having a chamber, a means for retaining a plurality of test strips in a substantially moisture-proof, air-tight first position within the chamber, and an electrochemical means for analyzing a biological fluid;

opening the chamber and moving one of the plurality of test strips from the first position inside of the chamber to a second position at least partially outside of the chamber;

causing the biological fluid to contact the test strip when in the second position; and

electrochemically analyzing the biological fluid when the test strip is in the second position.

~~18.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~17~~ wherein the opening of the chamber and the moving of the one test strip is achieved by a single motion.

~~19.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~18~~ further comprising ejecting the used test strip from the chamber after analyzing the biological fluid.